

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is the U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US03/01784, filed January 21, 2003, which was published in English under PCT Article 21(2), which in turn claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/350,326, filed January 18, 2002.

Please insert the following Abstract as the last page of the specification (as page 32, after page 31):

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Simulating a microarray includes defining a number of parameters. A microarray is generated according to the parameters using an imaging procedure. The microarray is compared to a known value, and the imaging procedure is evaluated in response to the comparison. A simulated microarray image can be generated based on parameters. The simulated microarray can be associated with known values. An imaging procedure is applied to the simulated microarray image to generate observed values. The known values (e.g., intensities) can be compared to the observed values to evaluate the imaging procedure.